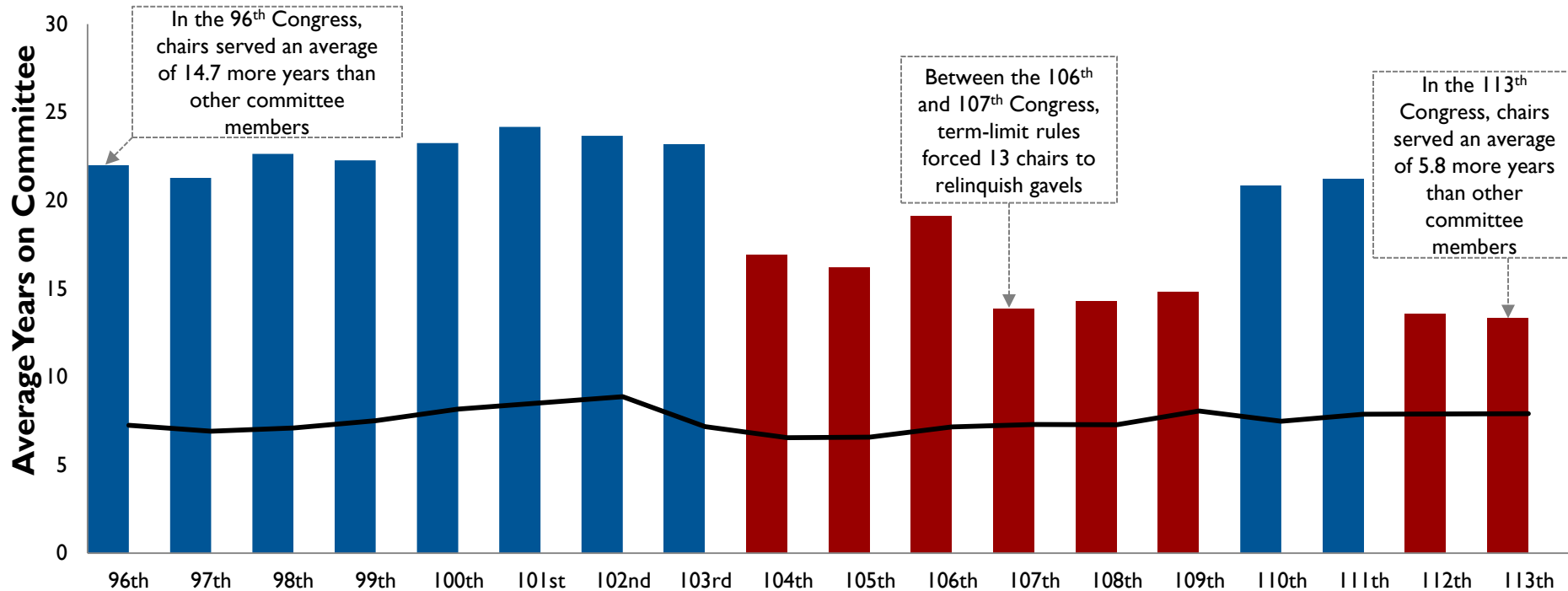


Committee Chairs Are Less Experienced Than Ever

Average Committee Tenure of House Committee Chairs, 96th-113th Congress

■ Democratic Committee Chairs ■ Republican Committee Chairs — All Committee Members



Analysis

- The average committee tenure of House committee chairs has declined by 40% over the past 30 years, from 22.0 years among chairs in the 96th Congress to 13.3 years among chairs in the 113th
- Republican term-limit rules are a major factor in the decline, but Democrats have also seen similar drops; excluding senior members Reps. Dingell, Conyers, and Obey, each of whom was on a committee for more than 40 years, Democratic chairs in the 110th Congress had a lower average committee tenure than Republican chairs in the 106th
- Although chairs today serve fewer years on a committee than did their predecessors, the average committee tenure for all Representatives has remained relatively steady over the past two decades; this undercuts the notion that greater electoral turnover may have contributed to less experienced chairs